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Dear Dr Hancock   Lancaster Mar. 26. 1776

Mr Hancock kind Lr. recd, wth one from Dr Y. & Mr Avery informs me that you recd mine of ye 8th ult. wch I was very glad of, as it conveyd ye bill of Sale for Jammys, being duplicate of One I long since forwd enclosd with one from yr Sr K, & wch for many mo I concluded must come to hand from some Qr or other; but I am pretty certain it must have been lost wth Doctr Warren. I am Glad to hear by Mr H's Lr of your good health &, Mr Avery tld me the packet at Mr G's Shop going down to Cambridge to his Father Cushing, & promisd me on his return to stop & inform me of matters at Phylada but has not fulfilled his promise: but I hope to see him here this Week, as he lives but 9m off; — I rejoyce to find Mr H's strength hold out; so as to permit his very close attention to business of ye greatest Moment, that these Colonies or either of them have had any concern wth, & of no less importance than whether they & their posterity shall be Freemen or Slaves — however relative to this & all matters of a political nature, I refer you to a Letter I n wch this is enclosed with one ~~fom~~ Dr Y.

Your Sr Katy is under a bad Cold, & says she cant write you now, but will soon — your Sr G now sends you one after long Silence — I think I informd you in my last that your Br & Sr Sewall wth their family were safe arrd in Londo wch advice I had fm Mr Balch — Last Week your Sr K recd a Lr wch Ward Chipman wrote her some time in January last, acquainting her that he had recd advice fro. Mr S, that your Sr Children & Family were all inoculated ~~ill~~ of the Smallpox — wch I am thankful for as it will be a Great relief to her mind — ~~that~~ When recovered — wch from latter accounts of ye Success of that Operation, is near as certain among a No. of healthy Subjects, as that ye distemper was communicated to them. . . We hope may soon hear of ye Success in fact, if any way of Conveying a Letter to ye Continent — how that may be cant tell, but hope, the Evacuation of Boston will be a prelude to ye Expected Frustration of the whole British System of Subjugation, as Mr H writes me & also Dr Y, that the Southn Colonies are prepared to give them a drubbing come when and where they will, wch I hope may prove true.

I have wrote Mr H as far as I have been advisd as to the Genl preservn of his real interest, wch he writes me ye 10th Currt he had resigned to ye Flames . . . The preservation of Boston so far as it is preserved is a Signal favor of Heaven, tho, many are egregious Sufferers, your Bro H & his son Stedman in particular — in whose Dwellings were left Officers, Men of Singular honor! By the same Rank of Miscreants, have many had their houses ransackt — The Tories they say, have been equally Plunderers wth ye Military — Many of them had lived so long in the Fortress, upon ye King's bounty & otherwise, that they grew much in want of Supplies for their Exiled State, that 'twas no Great wonder that men of their wild principles shd embrace the most dirty methods of Filling their pockets: Poor deluded Creatures was a Term you heard often from ye Mouths of some of ye First Rate; It is very possible, that

When

By a letter from ye B H from Providence he informs us, that by a Master of a Salem Vessel left in Londo recd this Winter he learns that yr Sister & family ~~are~~ were all recovd of ye Small Pox: May God bestow Wisdom rightly to improve so great a Mercy: May ye future Circumstances of G. Britain be such as may afford, Mr S. & yr Sister a peaceable & Comfortable Settlemt. — wch is not obtainable in America, as things now stand: I tremble almost for G: Br — as I have had great opporty of Examining into her moral as well as commercial & political State, lately much debased, by their silly & wicked Operations in America; yr Character even lower) when they were precipitately flying from ye beseiged Town, they had not relinquished the Term but were obliged to apply it to different Subjects — and indeed it might be very justly so applied. I'm sorry for poor Mrs. Abel Willard, your Sisters near neighbour & Friend — she's gone we hear with her husband & Bro. & Sons to Nova Scotia — P'haps in such a Scituation, & under such Circumstances of Offense respecting their Worthy Neighbours, as never to be in a political Capacity of returning to their Houses, unless wth honest inimical Views, wch God forbid should ever be ye Case — neither ever will be, unless we by our Sins & Follies should as a people forfeit his favor: wch has been manifestly already shewn to us, in ye remarkable Support He has thro. ye last Year especially afforded us, in ye Glorious defensive struggles we have made, under ye Severe Attacks of a British wicked — Ministry — May we deserve a Continuance of the Protection of Heaven, & may there be soon an Accommodation or Seperation of ye Younger from ye Older States; the Last I expect will be the necessary ~~[illegible]~~ Effect of ye unnatural Treatment we have received — The Voice of the People in these Wn Colonies, Seems almost Universally in favor of independency, as far as I can perceive — Pray God to afford all needed wisdom to ye C. Council in their debates & resolves upon ye Important Subject — It is my real Opinion ye Set time is come, wherein Providence has appointed, these Flourishing States, to withdraw themselves from ye Controul of all other, for wise reasons, wch will ~~[illegible]~~ be manifest in due time to those who may Survive ye expected political change in this Western Hemisphere of ye Globe, & be acquainted wth ye political effects wch may result from ye Such Alteration of things, probably big wth Events, which may have a very Salutary operation upon ye Eastern Side of the World, What, how, or by wt means or to wt particular end, we know not; nor have a Right of enquiry into; our duty as individuals, is comprized in a narrow compass a few words, comprehend ye Idea of the whole — "The Love of God & our Neighbour" when we are really convinced of ye genuiness of both those Affections, by ye flow of good fruit, wthout partiality & without Hypocrisy", we may then console our Selves, with having honestly complied wth ye kind injunction of the Apostle James. 1.22. "Be ye doers of the word and not hearers only."

I lately recd. a Letter from your Nephew S. S, now at Concord, with wch I am much pleased, as it is a proof of his very fast rising to peculiar Service of his Country in some department, for wch his Apparent Growth, in his knowledge of ye learned Languages, ye Arts & Sciences, and if I am not mistaken, in Wisdom & prudence which coupled wth ye fear of God, & a Natural good Understanding, affo his Friends an agreable prospect of his doing well in ye World. In his Letter he mentions his Circumstances & small dependance upon any further Support of his Friends, & therefore asks their Favor in promoting him, in any good Pub. School, or even, in any Gentns Family who for ye Sake of a number of Children of an Age for instruction, might encline to have

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+ you see my paper is full, & I suppose you tired — & therefe. close wth love & best wishes of every real good from
Yor Affectionately concerned Parent
Edm Quincy

You'l tender my best regards to Mr. Hancock, Mess. Adams, Dr. S. & Dr. Chts Spouse & every other of our Friends, wth or that may be wth you — & ye returning inhabitants of Boston, will not all make equal haste to [illegible] wth they shew in their quitg. All remember love & respect to you, & Mrs. H. & all Friends — S.H. joins his best Complimts nearly got on his legs Black Sammy well in town, Distant above 3 miles a private instructor in his family upon reasonable terms: you may remember he voluntarily took upon himself at about 12 years of age, ye office of instructing his younger Bro.rs & Sisters in writing & arithmetic, as far as his capacity then extending, after which, he studied the Languages and Numbers in Mr Moody's Academy at Newbury; next July compleating 4 years, in wch he has been a very close student of Several Tutors & Professors at Haward College saving 2 or 3 months interruption of that Society by the present Civil war: Should Mr Hancock discover any publick department in or near Phyladelphia, wch might afford your Nephew a suitable Support, it might be a means, (wth his diligent improvemt.) of further advancement in Law, Physick or Divinity, as he might be enclined, or if nothing publick offered; should any Gentlemans of Considerable Family & fortune, in either of the Colonies So.ward of this, be enclined to have a private instructor as above, more especially of Connecticut, New York, New Jersey or Pensylvania or may be Maryland; in case Mr H approves of terms ye Gentn might, your Nephew would Gladly be informed of it as soon as may be, and will forward his answer immediately—

28, I have advice from Boston this day, that the men of war & transports are all Sailed from Nantasket except one Small man of war & Tender—to watch ye harbour—Tis thot. they are gone for Hallifax.— I hope the Sd Colt. are prepared for ye Several attacks designed against them—& expect now Boston is clear, that Genl Washington will in a Short time repair to ye Province he belongs to, in order to serve it, as far as he may be able. . . I pray God, that ye whole Land may be early delivered from all ye Bloody effects of an enraged Court & Nation that is a Great part, & that ye Noise of war may be no more heard in America, & especially of Civil war.— your Sisters & Friends are very Solicitous for a Cessation of publick difficulties, that Mr Hancock & you may return to Boston wth ye Satisfaction of Seeing his Habitation preserved under ye kind hand of providence, as well as his other buildings.

I have not wrote yo. aunt for some Mo. in wch I have been waiting ye Result of ye propos'd storming of ye Fortress of Boston: but I shall in a few days do my self the pleasure of forwarding her a short account thereof wth due Salutations upon ye occasion I hope you are in no danger from ye Enemy in ye River Delaware & much less at or near Phyladelphia. I shall be glad to receive advices of pub. occurrences from Dr Y. — I have wrote him largely to loose his pen — & as every week will produce things of pub: importance I beg you wd insist on it wth him that he this year be of a Communicative disposition, tho' I one that is Situated out of ye post road 15 miles in ye woods, particularly request his mention of Every thing, that relates to a Commercial Correspondence wth France & ye French Islands — & wt prospect of a French War. — If Mr Hancock, wd spare a No. of the late Phyla. news papers or prints — & yo. could send by a private Conveya. of a Messenger returning to Watertown or Cambridge from Congress — or one late one× only, or other remarkable very late publication upon ye times, Franked J.H. ℘ post it w. be an agreable Amusemt. (a votre pere) & therefore your thot. will be kind. I just now heard, that Deacon Barret, (is among others) a very great Sufferer in his interest, as they say. Dr. Eliot who had ye keys of his Store was obliged to deliver them to a certain Scotchman who demanded them in ye name of ye General or other power who had ordered B's goods in bales Trunks, & boxes, or to be sent on board of some Ship — they accordingly open'd his Store, & sent away ye goods, to a Great Value — wch ye Deacon & others might have done wn ye Prov. Congress advised it — September 1774 — a year & ½ ago: however ye Deacon has it in his power to draw on ye Kings Exchequer for ye Sum lost, paya. to his Ers at home, if he is so happy as to have any — I have not time nor room to add save, that Mr G's Family are all well, in want of Flax, wch otherwise spin very chearfully — nothing like necessity, to give Spring to action: have nothing to do wth G-Britain, & manufactures must grow up to a great heighth wthout doubt ×

× If yo. write by 2 lines, to cover them I shall take it kind

To Mrs Dorothy Hancock

in

Phyladelphia

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